

EMPLOYERS AGREE TO ACT TOGETHER

Engravers Form Organization in Afternoon and Employes Discuss Wage Scale at Night.

Practically every corporation, firm and individual employers of engravers in Cincinnati met yesterday, perfected an organization and signed an agreement to stand together on any question their men may submit or demand they may make in regard to wages, hours or conditions of labor.

A committee, of which H. Serkovich, of the Chamber of Commerce, is secretary, was appointed to handle all future differences between employer and employee. This committee has full authority to act, and its decision will be final as far as the employers are concerned.

While no trouble is anticipated, the employers are aware that a wage scale committee of the Engravers' Union has had the matter of an increase in wages under consideration for several weeks. This committee made its report last night and the employers, knowing it was to do so, organized in the afternoon.

The union men met early in the evening at Carpenters' Home, on Walnut street, heard the report of the committee, discussed it informally, but took no action on it. The question will come up for further discussion at a meeting to be held in the near future.

In the meantime, the employers declare, they are ready for any demand the men may make, and, according to the agreement signed yesterday, will stand together on any proposition presented.

EDUCATION IS VALUABLE.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.—Factory Inspector McGrath did not favor an amendment to the school attendance act before a committee of the legislature. As the law now stands school children of 13 may be employed in stores for two hours in the evenings and for eight hours a day during school holidays. The factory inspector could see no necessity for amendments. He declared that he worked in mills at the age of 10 and had not been harmed. R. A. Rigg, a trade unionist, suggested to the official that a few years more education might not be injurious.

"The whole discussion," says the Voice, published in this city, "showed that the province doesn't yet appreciate the value of education. Only men of extreme limited education will dare to declare that seven or eight years of schooling properly equip a boy for the battle of life. When a man says he doesn't regret having been meagerly educated, he proclaims that he has never fallen under the fascination of knowledge. Such a man will be forever content to let others do his thinking. He will measure the fullness of his life by his success in business or in law, blissfully ignorant of the very existence of that magic realm in which humanity attains its full stature."

"It is the business of labor men to demand the best education for their children. At 14 a boy usually wants to leave school. At 16 he will understand that to enter the economic arena untrained means the junk heap for him at 40."

OPERATORS ENJOINED.

Omaha, Neb.—Judge Redick of the district court of this county has enjoined members of the Moving Picture Operators' Union "and all others" from interfering "in any manner" with a non-union theatre. The judge does not deny the worker the right of free speech or free press, but they are notified that the business of the non-union theatre must not be injured by the exercise of this constitutional right. No single picket is permitted even in the vicinity of the theatre and if any circulars are printed on which the word "unfair" or words of like import appear, this, the court declares, will be a violation of his orders.

LOW WAGE FOR WOMEN.

Washington.—About 46 per cent of sales girls and women and 54 per cent of the women in all other lines of work in the nation's capital receive less than \$6 a week, asserted Secretary Falk of the Consumers' League, in an address in this city. She declared that Washington has sweatshops and that remedial steps must be taken immediately. She stated that women in domestic service often worked 20 hours a day, and in answer to a question as to what the league was doing to remedy this condition, she replied that the matter was being "investigated," and that evidence as to existing conditions in all parts of the country is now being gathered. When completed this will be compiled to determine just what problems are uppermost in this work and what can be done "to remedy present evils." No one suggested that these workers be urged to organize that immediate relief be secured.

REJECT LAW 4,101 YEARS OLD.

Jefferson City, Mo.—The State Supreme Court has decided that the laws of King Hammurabi of Babylon might have served a useful purpose 4,101 years ago, but they are ill-fitted for the year 1916 A. D.

CONVICT LABOR EVILS PICTURED BY UNIONIST

Richmond, Va.—"The trail of the prison contract is over every abuse complained of in the Virginia penitentiary," said Organizer Davison of the machinists' union at a public hearing on the anti-convict labor bill, now pending in the State Legislature.

"It is behind the complaints of flogging," continued the unionist. "Men are whipped because they do not fulfill the daily stint of several dollars' worth of labor set by the contractors who pay 85 cents for it."

"The prison contract system is intimately linked with all penal abuses because it is itself an abuse. It is an abuse of the prison warden; it makes him a shop administrator, a master of bound-out labor, instead of a mender of broken men; it too often links him with the interests of the contractor instead of with those of the State who has appointed him to be a reformer. It is an abuse of free labor; it forces freemen, at living wages, to compete with the modern counterpart of slave labor; it enables employer of prison labor, by reason of their paying about one-fifth of the market price for that labor, to go into the market and underbid the employers of free labor."

"It is an abuse of the State; it makes the State the bearer of unjust debts; it gives to a contractor the productiveness of the prisoner and the State gets the leavings and shoulders the responsibility. It is an abuse of the prisoner's family; their bread-winner toils long hours at productive labor, his earnings go into the pockets of private contractors, while wife and children struggle against the steep decline to pauperism and eventually, in far too many cases, come up to the poor house."

"It is an abuse of the prisoner; the blood that courses through a man's veins is no more sacredly and inalienably his own than is his labor; to have it taken from him with no more recompense than is granted an ox, to be forced to labor for the enrichment of contractors who have been shrewd enough to make a ridiculously inadequate bargain with the State is to sap his self-respect, beget a hatred to society and all of society's representatives, and finally to break down the very moral fiber upon which a man's essential humanity depends."

"It is an abuse of society; we no longer send our offenders to prison in a spirit of vengeance, we send them there for our protection and their reformation. To make, therefore, a slave instead of a man of the offender is to cheat society of its intention and its most enduring protection."

REGULATING CHILD LABOR.

Columbia, S. C.—The State Senate has passed the house bill which would raise from 12 to 14 the legal age limit at which children may be employed in textile plants, factories and mines. The senate amended the bill to make it effective January 1, 1917, six months earlier than the house provided and it now goes back to the house for concurrence.

REPLY TO COAL OPERATORS.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Editor Keith of the Voice of Labor makes this reply to one of the coal operators' favorite claims: "The coal barons say that if they grant the eight-hour day to the miners that it would increase danger of coal shortage. If they really thought so they would grant less than eight hours."

P. O. LABORERS WIN INCREASE.

Washington.—The house has accepted the recommendation of its post-office committee that post-office laborers be paid an annual minimum wage of \$840. Nine hundred laborers will be increased from \$720 under this amendment.

Congressman Sisson of Mississippi made an unsuccessful attempt to eliminate the compensation-for-injury legislation for certain employees in the postal service who are killed or injured while on duty. The southern representative defeated an attempt to include other postal employees in this legislation by raising the point that it was not germane to an appropriation bill.

WILL ARBITRATE WAGES.

East Liverpool, Ohio.—Wage differences between employees and the management of the Y. & O. Interurban line will be settled by arbitration. The steam men are paid 35 cents an hour; they ask 40 cents. Motormen and conductors are paid 24, 26, 28 and 30 cents, according to length of time of service; they ask 28, 30, 32 and 36 cents. Under the terms of the franchise the company is obliged to accept arbitration. The workers are members of Division No. 22, Street Car Men's Union.

REAL AMERICANIZATION.

Indianapolis.—"Unusual interest is being displayed these days regarding the question of Americanizing the immigrant, but the matter seems simple enough to us," says Secretary Duffe of the Brotherhood of Carpenters. "The remedy lies in allowing him to join the labor movement and see to it that he gets a living wage."

BUILDING SUB-CONTRACTS

Hospital—A new building to be erected on Lafayette avenue, Clifton, in connection with the Scarlet Oaks Sanitarium, as a home for the aged. Owner, the Bethesda Hospital Association; architect, G. W. Drach, Union Trust Building, Cincinnati, O. Contracts awarded as follows: Excavation, August Schardt; iron work, Wm. Lang & Sons Co.; glazing, H. Neuer; artificial cut stone, the Cincinnati Cement Products Co.; brick work, the David Hummel Building Co.; carpentry, Jas. Griffith & Sons Co.; electric work, the Devere Electric Co.; heating and ventilating, Peck, Anderson & Peck, and plumbing, the Attlesley Plumbing Co.

Residence—A 2½-story brick residence, to be built on Eggers place, near Harrison avenue, Westwood. Owner, Mrs. F. Reuter; architect, E. H. Dornet, Pickering Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contracts awarded as follows: Excavation and masonry, Valentine Karches; brick work, H. H. Bell; cement work, Samuel Disser; iron work, B. J. Rowe-kamp; cut stone, Lang & Herman; plastering, Andrew Ranz; painting and glazing, John Pfaff; roofing and sheet metal work, A. Hader & Son; carpenter work, F. W. Beckman; plumbing, Schwarz & Fern; electric work, E. C. Spellman; heating, Peck, Anderson & Peck.

Residence—A 2½-story brick residence, to be built on Alter place, Avondale. Owner, Mrs. W. Krogoll; architect, Harry M. Price, Mercantile Library Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contracts awarded as follows: Mill work, the Ward-Brock Sash and Door Co.; concrete work, Jacob Huber, plumbing, Frank G. Hamer; roofing, C. L. Grote; brick work, Harry Applegate; lumber, the Enterprise Lumber Co.; carpenter work, Harry Neyer; hardware, Evans Bros.; plastering, Mulvihill & Kennedy.

Garage—A garage to be built at 3924 Dakota avenue. Owner, Chas. Abrams; architect, G. C. Burroughs, Union Trust Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contract awarded to G. H. Plump & Sons.

Residence—A 2½-story brick residence, to be built on Price avenue, Price Hill. Owner, Mrs. Lulu C. Clark; architect, Martin Fisher, 2156 Central avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contracts awarded as follows: Excavation, concrete and cement work, Hagman & Folzenlagel; brick work, Bell & Leonard; cut stone, H. Pielage; roofing, L. Neabrey; plumbing, Ed. Docter; plastering, G. Gellenbeck; painting, Ed. Heinemann; carpentry, Arthur Curtis; heating, Peck, Anderson & Peck; electric work, the Porter Co.

New Front—New store front to be put in at 110 W. Fifth street. Owners, Chas. Schaengold and Isaac McMahon; architects, S. S. & G. H. Godley, Neave Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contract awarded to the David Gordon Building Co.

Residence—A 2½-story brick residence to be built at Briar Cliff, Ft. Thomas, Ky. Owner, W. J. Youmans; architects, Weber, Werner & Adkins, Mercantile Library Building, Cincinnati, O. Contracts awarded as follows: Cut stone, Carl Bros.; painting and glazing, A. J. Miller; electric wiring, Fischer Bros.; plumbing and gas-fitting, Walter Melching; stairs, Schulte & Fisher; carpentry, F. H. J. Lauping; brick work, C. W. Peters & Son; iron work, the Covington Iron Works; cement work, the F. G. Ader Construction Co.

Store and Flat Building—A 2-story brick store and flat building, to be erected on Wyoming avenue, near Wayne, Lockland, O.; also remodeling a store and flat building on the corner of Wayne and Wyoming avenues, Lockland, O. Owner, Samuel Glass; architects, S. S. & G. H. Godley, Neave Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contract for both buildings awarded to the Ohio Building and Construction Co.

Wiring Hospital Building—Electric wiring of the Children's Hospital, in Mt. Auburn. Owner, the Episcopal Church; architect, Chas. R. Strong, St. Paul Building, Cincinnati, O. Contract awarded to Al. Becker & Son.

NO DRY AMENDMENT.

Columbus, O.—Trustees of the Ohio Anti-Saloon league recently adopted a resolution expressing the sentiment that it would be unwise to submit an amendment for State-wide prohibition in Ohio this year.

LABOR LEADER TO SPEAK.

James O'Connell of Washington, second vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, will speak Thursday, March 16, at Music Hall, in behalf of the striking machinists.

PLAN NEW UNIONS.

The Organization Committee of Central Labor Council, reported at a meeting, held recently, that an effort will be made to organize the telephone operators and candy makers. A request from the American Federation of Labor that the council aid in organizing city firemen and school teachers was concurred in.

INCREASES FOR STONE CUTTERS

Sandstone, Minn.—The Stone Cutters' Union has voted to demand wage increases from 56½ to 62½ cents per hour, starting May 1.

PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETS TRADE UNIONISTS

Washington.—Members of the President's Cabinet and Secretary to the President, Mr. Tumulty, together with the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and A. F. of L. Department officials were luncheon guests of Secretary of Labor Wilson last month.

The members of the Executive Council were in the city attending their regular quarterly meeting, and the first representative of organized labor in a President's Cabinet took occasion to have his present colleagues meet his old-time associates in the trade-union movement.

Secretary of Labor Wilson seated his guests as follows: On the right—President Gompers, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, A. F. of L. Treasurer Lennon, Postmaster General Burleson, A. F. of L. Vice-President Valentine, Secretary of the Interior Lane, A. F. of L. Vice-President Perham, Secretary to the President Tumulty, A. F. of L. Vice-President Green, President Williams of the A. F. of L. Building Trades Department, and President Lord, of the A. F. of L. Mining Department.

On Secretary of Labor Wilson's left were seated: A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, Gen. Hugh L. Scott, Secretary of War Ad. D. C. A. F. of L. Vice-President O'Connell, Secretary of the Navy Daniels, A. F. of L. Vice-President Alpine, Secretary of Agriculture Houston, A. F. of L. Vice-President Frank Duffy, Assistant Secretary of Labor Louis Post, Secretary-Treasurer Spencer of the A. F. of L. Building Trades Department, Secretary-Treasurer Berres of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, and President Wharton, of the A. F. of L. Railroad Employees' Department.

Two members of the A. F. of L. Executive Council were not present—Vice-President Duncan, who was detained at his office in connection with important business connected with his trade, and Vice-President Hayes because of illness.

STATE EMPLOYEES PROGRESS.

Chicago.—Hospital nurses and attendants employed by the various State institutions have formed a State organization. These employees are organized in unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. While men and women doing similar work in other States have pleaded with lawmakers for relief, the Illinois State Hospital nurses and attendants organized about two years ago and now have the eight-hour day, one day rest in seven, equal pay for men and women and have secured an arrangement providing for automatic wage increases.

The advantages of organization have so impressed the State board which manages these institutions that recently the board issued an order to all superintendents to "keep hands off" these unions. To impress upon superintendents the fact that workers have the right to organize, the State board later issued another order to the same effect, and superintendents were also instructed to place the order on the bulletin boards of their respective institutions and notify the board that they had received a copy of the order.

NEW YORK SUBWAY MEN HAVE STRONG DEFENDER

New York.—In his weekly address in Carnegie Hall Rabbi Stephen S. Wise made strong protest against the treatment of workers employed on the great interborough subway system in this city, whose management has been shown, during the past few weeks, to have been implicated in astounding financial transactions for the benefit of a few.

"The moment a stone is lifted which hides from sight the financial operations of the great transportation system of our city," said Dr. Wise, "we come upon a lot of crawling, slimy vermin who prefer the security of darkness to the blaze of public light."

"They are not ready to pay the price of industrial peace save as they dictate its terms—for instance in co-operative stores and bonuses. Yet they dare to deny the workers the right to organize and prevent them from organizing through an effective system of espionage. They pay wages which are not a living wage and compel men to work seven days a week and thirty days a month in order to approximate a living wage. Insofar as the city is a partner in the subway system, we are guilty of wrongdoing this great number of men."

"As their fellow citizens it is our office to maintain their right to organize and to make certain demands upon the transportation companies which must be supported by us in every way. If the workers of the transportation system in New York are not whipped curs; if they are men and are not the servile creatures of the gentlemen who enrich themselves with millions by their command of the transportation system, they would rise up and insist upon justice and equity in the dealings of the system with them."

"And when they do rise up, making their organized and collective demands, we want no college strike-breakers imported from the institutions which are among the privately-owned beneficiaries of the gentlemen responsible for the looting at the top and for the crime of injustice at the bottom. We want no college scabs to take the place of the wronged workers."

"If these young gentlemen who some years ago took the places of the cut-throats ordinarily employed in the business of strike-breaking wish to embark on a striking adventure let them try the experiment of reading a book."

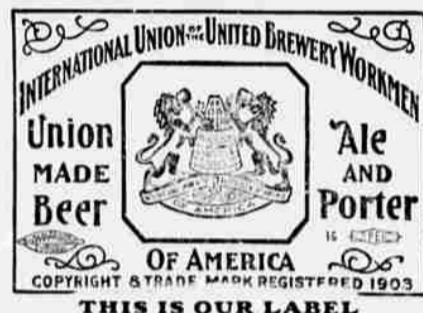
"We would have peace. We pray for peace and we strive for peace. But there is something better than peace—justice, justice."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

St. Louis, Mo.—Typographical Union has secured wage increases for its members employed in commercial shops. For the first six months, an additional \$1 a week will be paid; second six months, 50 cents a week, and third six months, 50 cents a week. The following apprentice scale has been agreed to: First year, \$7 per week; second year \$9; third year, \$12; fourth year, \$15; first six months of fifth year, \$18; second six months of fifth year, \$20.

McAlester, Okla.—The Typographical Union has signed a three-years' contract with publishers. Wages are increased \$1 a week during 1916; 50 cents during 1917 and 50 cents during 1918. This makes the scale \$23 a week during the last year of the contract.

VOTE AGAINST PROHIBITION!



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